

Atty. Docket No. NIT-5435

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 10/586,730 Confirmation No. : 8765  
Applicant : Tadashi SANO et al. TC/GAU : 1775  
Filed : July 21, 2006 Examiner : Gautam PRAKASH  
Title : MICROORGANISM SEPARATION DEVICE  
Customer No.: 24956

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**  
**UNDER § 1.97 AND § 1.98**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 26, 2012

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy, where required, of the documents listed in the attached form PTO/SB/08a. It is requested that the information be considered by the Examiner during prosecution of the application, and that the references be made of record therein.

1. This IDS is filed:

- (a) with the filing of an application (new or continuing) or Request for Continued Examination (RCE). No certification or fee is required.
- (b) within three months of the filing date of the present application, or within three months of the filing date of the National Stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application. No certification or fee is required.
- (c) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits under 37 CFR 1.97 (b) (1-4). No certification or fee is required.

(d) before the mailing date of either a Final Rejection under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311. Included herein is a certification in section 3 below, **OR** a fee of \$180.00;

(e) prior to the payment of the Issue Fee. A certification is included in section 3 below. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) and request(s) consideration of this IDS, **AND** submits a fee of \$180.00.

2. When 1(a)-(e) do not apply, then it is requested that this IDS be placed in the file.

3. The undersigned hereby states:

(a) that each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, as indicated on the copy of the communication submitted herewith, which communication was dated not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or

(b) that no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

4. Please note that U.S. Patent Document No. 1 and 2 and Foreign Patent Document 1 were cited in the attached Supplementary European Search Report dated October 26, 2011.

5. Fee Payment.

The fee of \$180 is enclosed.

No fee is believed to be due.

If a fee or additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or additional fee that may be required and credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

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6. If the PTO determines that part(s) of the required content is inadvertently omitted, then it is requested that the Applicant(s) be given additional time and specific identification of such omission(s) to enable full compliance.

Respectfully submitted,  
MATTINGLY & MALUR, PC

/Gene W. Stockman/  
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